

Government Council welcomes three new members to start the year and discusses the course of tripartite meetings on Methodology 2017+

The Research, Development and Innovation Council (the Council) met on 24 January at Straka Academy for the first of their regular sessions this year. The main items of the meeting included inducting three new members of this expert advisory body as well as subsequently filling in the rapporteur positions for the Council's individual expert agendas. A regular key item is implementation of the Evaluation Methodology 2017+.

At the start of the meeting, the First Vice-Chairman of the Research, Development and Innovation Council Petr Dvořák handed over **appointments to three new members. These are Rut Bízková, Ilona Müllerová and Jitka Ulrichová**, who number among the significant, respected scholars or personalities of public administration. The government appointed them 6 January. *"What is an important piece of information is that three new members of the Council received their appointments today. The Council received great reinforcements, as three significant figures and experts were named new members of the Council,"* said Council Vice-Chairman Petr Dvořák following the meeting.



P. Dvořák handed over the appointments to the new members of the Council as well as to existing member E. Pališek for a second term.

In connection with the appointments the Council also filled in and updated its rapporteurs for individual areas, predominantly from among its new members. Rut Bízková will now be dealing with the field of the environment and agriculture on the Council. Ilona Müllerová will take over the agenda of the Grant Agency from Tomáš Jungwirth, while Jitka Ulrichová will dedicate herself to the issue of research excellence (ERC) and the Evaluation Methodology 2017+. Both of the former two will also be leading the newly established agenda of

combining a scientific profession with parenthood. Štěpán Jurajda has currently taken over coordination of what is known as the International Council from Zdeněk Havlas.

On the further points of the meeting the Council members were informed **on the course of tripartite discussions after two years of implementation of the 2017+ Methodology**, which evaluates for example the quality of universities in terms of science and research, and they approved inter alia the organisation of three follow-up and newly conceived conferences on the implementation of research evaluation over the course of the first half of the year.

"The 2017+ Methodology is a great move forward in research evaluation in the Czech Republic. It is something that we have absolutely needed here. Let us note that there are international rankings of universities where certain Czech schools are visible, others are not. The information coming in from introducing the new evaluation method is a certain perspective from the Czech side of things," Petr Dvořák added.

The Council also discussed the materials of the Draft for Amending the EPSILON Programme of Applied Research and Experimental Development, which falls under the Technology Agency, and the International Peer-Review Evaluation of Major Research Infrastructures in 2021 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

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